



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

NOV 19 2001

The Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to transmit to you the initial report of the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence, as authorized by Section 591 of P.L. 106-65, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000. The members of the Task Force were appointed in March 2000, and their dedication to the mission of the Task Force produced a comprehensive strategic plan for the Department of Defense within one year.

Also enclosed is my evaluation of the report, as required by Section 591(e) the law. The law also requires the Department to include information on the incidents of domestic violence involving members of the armed forces. This data is being collected and to preclude delaying this report, will be forwarded under separate cover.

I support 57 of the 68 recommendations contained in the report. Four of the recommendations will require further study. We take no position with respect to four recommendations because they are directed to the Congress and the Task Force. Finally, we do not support three recommendations. The Department will begin work immediately on the recommendations. Many will be completed in 2002 and others will require more intensive development. We expect the majority to be completed by 2005.

Sincerely,

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member



U18507 /01



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
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The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Sincerely,

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: The Honorable John Warner
Ranking Member



U18507 /01



**DOD RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
IN THE INITIAL REPORT OF THE
DEFENSE TASK FORCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Section 591 of Public Law 106-65, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000, authorized the Department of Defense to create the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence for a three-year period. The law required the Task Force to prepare an annual report of its activities and the activities of the military departments to respond to domestic violence in the military. The law also required the Task Force to prepare a comprehensive strategic plan for the Department by which the Department may address matters relating to domestic violence within the military more effectively.

The law required the Task Force to **submit these documents** to the Secretary of Defense for evaluation. The following pages constitute **the Secretary's evaluation** of the Task Force's report. The Secretary agrees with **most of the Task Force's recommendations** and will begin work immediately on these recommendations. Implementation of **some** of the recommendations will require ongoing collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Task Force during the next few years. Implementation of other recommendations, including those concerning training of personnel, will require several additional years to complete.

SECTION III, STRATEGIC PLAN

CHAPTER 1 — COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Issue 1A – Community Collaboration Policies

That the DoD –

- Amend DoDD 6400.1¹ to require installation/regional commanders to seek MOUs² with local communities to address responses to domestic violence.
- Create an Enclosure to DoDD 6400.1 that provides examples of MOUs and guidance in negotiating the creation and implementation of such memoranda.
- Make domestic violence MOUs with local communities an item of special interest for the DoD and each Service's Inspector General.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with these recommendations, and requests that the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence (DTFDV) develop examples of such MOUs and guidance in cooperation with OSD and Service personnel. DoD proposes to amend DoD Directive 6400.1 to incorporate such MOUs and to require the DoD Inspector General and each Service's Inspector General to make domestic violence MOUs with local communities an item of special interest.

Issue 1B – Liaison with Civilian Community

That the DoD –

- Establish, and permanently fund, a position of Domestic Violence Response Coordinator, at each major military installation, while assuring that there is appropriate coverage of smaller military installations. This person will be responsible for liaison between military installations and community agencies, including those serving diverse populations, concerning domestic violence.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees that coordination of installations' responses to domestic violence should include the local civilian community. DoD requests the DTFDV to provide additional information regarding the coordinator's tasks and skills. DoD will review current responsibilities of DoD law enforcement and Victim/Witness personnel to see whether the DTFDV's requirements can be added as additional duties for such personnel. DoD will study the cost of establishing the position of Domestic Violence Response Coordinator at each major military installation.

¹ DoD Directive 6400.1, "Family Advocacy Program (FAP)," June 23, 1992.

² Memoranda of Understanding

Issue 1C – Civilian Orders of Protection

That the DoD –

- Take appropriate action to make violation by a military member of a valid civilian order of protection, or any other valid instrument of restraint issued by a civil or criminal court, an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).
- Request Congress enact legislation to make it a violation of federal law to disobey, on federal property, a valid civilian order of protection or any other valid instrument of restraint issued by a civil or criminal court.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD will refer the first recommendation to the Joint Service Committee on Military Justice for consideration as an additional offense under Article 134, UCMJ. As to the second recommendation, DoD defers to the Department of Justice regarding legislation creating federal offenses.

Issue 1D – Military Protective Orders [MPOs]

That the DoD –

- Develop and disseminate a standard MPO form.
- Establish a policy that all MPOs are to be issued in writing.
- Issue a directive requiring a commanding officer who issues a MPO to a member of the Armed Forces to provide a written copy of that order, within 24 hours of its issuance, to the person with whom the member is ordered not to have contact.
- Establish a system to record and track all MPOs. (For example: NCIC³, central registry⁴, etc.)
- Establish a policy ensuring that written copies of all MPOs are forwarded immediately to both the installation's Family Advocacy Program and the installation's law enforcement agency.

³ National Crime Information Center, operated by the Department of Justice

⁴ Family Advocacy Program Central Registry of Child and Spouse Abuse Reports

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the first three recommendations and the last recommendation and will amend DoD Directive 6400.1 accordingly. DoD would like to study the fourth recommendation in coordination with the DTFDV.

**SECTION III, STRATEGIC PLAN
CHAPTER 2 — EDUCATION AND TRAINING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Issue 2A – Improve Commanding Officer Training

That the DoD –

- Amend DoDD 6400.1 to require mandatory initial training for commanding officers (below general/flag officer grade) within 90 days of assumption of their command, as well as annual follow-up training.
- In collaboration with the DTFDV⁵ regarding content, placement, time devoted, and target audience, develop standardized training curricula and duration of training on the prevention of and appropriate response to domestic violence applicable to all levels of command throughout the DoD.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with these recommendations. DoD will amend DoDD 6400.1 to include the content issues developed by the DTFDV that the Services' training must include.

Issue 2B – Standardize Education and Training Programs for Senior Noncommissioned Officers

That the DoD –

- Amend DoDD 6400.1 to require mandatory initial training for senior enlisted personnel (E-7 through E-9) in billets who serve as senior enlisted advisers to commanding officers, and to do so within 90 days of their appointment, with provision for annual follow-up training.
- In collaboration with the DTFDV regarding content, placement and time devoted, develop standardized training curricula for use throughout the DoD that are applicable to senior enlisted personnel in PME⁶ settings and at the installation level.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with these recommendations. DoD will amend DoDD 6400.1 to include the content issues developed by the DTFDV that the Services' training must include.

⁵ Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence

⁶ Professional Military Education

Issue 2C – Military Criminal Justice Training

That the DoD –

- Develop, in collaboration with the Military Services and the DTFDV, standardized domestic violence training for military police to be included in their initial training.
- Ensure that local military police patrol officers receive specialized relevant training within 90 days of being assigned duties that would typically require them to respond to domestic violence.
- Create, in collaboration with the Military Services and the DTFDV, mobile training teams to expedite delivery of domestic violence training to military police patrol officers at the installation level.
- Develop, in collaboration with the Military Services and the DTFDV, a comprehensive list of state-of-the-art equipment necessary to conduct a proper investigation of an alleged domestic violence incident.
- Initiate, in collaboration with the Military Services and the DTFDV, an evidence-based prosecution-training module for Staff Judge Advocates.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the first two recommendations and will amend DoDD 6400.1 to include the content issues developed by the DTFDV that the Services' training must include. DoD will study the cost of implementing the third recommendation. DoD agrees to review existing current investigative equipment requirements and prosecution training for Staff Judge Advocates and implement appropriate changes.

Issue 2D – Awareness of Lautenberg Amendment⁷

That the DoD –

- Conduct a Lautenberg awareness campaign using all public affairs (PA) resources (both OSD/PA⁸ and Service PA organizations) to fully inform the military community of the existence and consequences of the amendment.
- Amend DoDD 6400.1 to require mandatory Lautenberg awareness education during annual general military training sessions, upon the return of personnel from deployments, and during holiday safety briefings.

⁷ 18 U.S.C. §922(d)(9)

⁸ Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with these recommendations and will amend DoDD 6400.1.

Issue 2E – Healthcare Personnel Response to Domestic Violence

That the DoD –

- Reiterate the need for domestic violence awareness education for all healthcare staff and collaborate with the DTFDV on content.
- Study adoption of indicator-based or universal screening for domestic violence in healthcare areas of emergency medicine, primary care, and obstetrics/gynecology.
- Require NPSP⁹ nurses to have domestic violence awareness education within 90 days of their hiring.
- Request Congress fully resource the NPSP across all Services.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the first two recommendations and agrees with the need for all NPSP staff to have domestic violence awareness education promptly since some NPSP programs do not use nurses. DoD will amend DoDD 6400.1 accordingly. DoD takes no position regarding the last recommendation.

Issue 2F – Setting the Climate for Effective Prevention of Domestic Violence

In addition to the Secretary of Defense issuing the policy memorandum on domestic violence attached to the cover letter of this report, the Task Force recommends the following:

- In collaboration with the DTFDV regarding content, placement, and time devoted, the Services institute domestic violence awareness education at their respective chaplain officer indoctrination courses and include training to focus on dynamics of domestic violence, chaplain roles in response to domestic violence, and overall Service response.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees to review current awareness education and training for chaplains and implement appropriate changes. DoD will amend DoDD 6400.1 accordingly.

⁹ New Parent Support Program

Issue 2G – Transitional Compensation Program¹⁰ Awareness

That –

- The DoD mandate the Military Services to provide awareness education to military spouses regarding the Transitional Compensation Program.
- The DTFDV Victim Safety Workgroup continue to investigate this issue from a victim safety standpoint.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the first recommendation and will amend DoD Instructions 1342.24 and 6400.1. DoD takes no position regarding the second recommendation since it is an internal one regarding the DTFDV.

¹⁰ DoD Instruction 1342.24, "Transitional Compensation for Abused Dependents," May 23, 1995.

**SECTION III, STRATEGIC PLAN
CHAPTER 3 — OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Issue 3A -- Criminality

That the DoD –

- Require the investigation of every reported incident of domestic violence to determine whether a crime has been committed.
- Train law enforcement, legal, and command personnel to collaborate effectively in making the determination of whether a crime was committed, and taking the necessary follow-on actions appropriate to their specific roles.
- Develop standard guidelines on the factors for commanders to consider when seeking to substantiate allegations of domestic violence by a person subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and when determining appropriate action for such allegations that are substantiated.

DOD RESPONSE: To the extent that the first recommendation refers to military law enforcement personnel who respond to the scene, DoD agrees, and DoD agrees to review current training to implement the second recommendation. DoD will amend DoD Instruction 6400.1 accordingly. DoD will implement the third recommendation consistent with the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Manual for Courts-Martial.

Issue 3B – Lautenberg and Enlistment Waivers

That the DoD –

- Ensure that the Services are complying with the DoD interim policy.
- Review the appropriateness of waivers issued since the interim policy went into effect.

DOD RESPONSE: The DTFDV did not substantiate any enlistment waivers granted in violation of the interim policy. The DTFDV found some waivers for "domestic violence-related" convictions (e.g., convictions for violence against siblings) that did not meet the definition of domestic violence used in the Lautenberg Amendment and adopted by the interim policy. The Services will be asked to ensure that any such waivers are appropriate.

Issue 3C – Lautenberg and Discharges

That the DoD –

- Issue final guidance on implementing the Lautenberg Amendment.

***DOD RESPONSE:* DoD agrees with this recommendation and will issue final guidance.**

Issue 3D -- Case Management

That the DoD –

- Require comprehensive, effective batterer intervention for those determined to be culpable for domestic violence offenses and who are being retained on active duty.
- Develop criteria for different types of interventions based on individual case assessments.
- Develop criteria for conducting risk/lethality assessments to determine which victims are at greatest risk of injury or death.
- Develop criteria for what constitutes success and defines offender behavior after the intervention.

***DOD RESPONSE:* DoD would like to develop batterer intervention and other interventions, criteria for them, and criteria for success and offender behavior after intervention in coordination with the DTFDV in order to incorporate any empirically validated criteria and assessment instruments. Each of the Services has case management and risk assessment procedures that DoD would like to review in coordination with the DTFDV to identify areas for improvement.**

Issue 3E -- Fatality Reviews

That the DoD –

- Develop guidance for establishing formal and informal domestic violence fatality reviews to ensure that no victim dies in vain.
- Require results and system change recommendations to be completed in a timely manner.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with these recommendations. Agencies in each Service currently conduct internal formal and informal reviews of domestic violence fatalities, but Service-wide comprehensive reviews are not regularly conducted. DoD believes that the guidance for fatality reviews should be developed through coordination with civilian agencies and incorporated into MOUs with them, and will amend DoD Instruction 6400.1 accordingly.

Issue 3F -- Tracking and Data Collection

That the DoD --

- Develop guidance to capture data required by Section 594, P.L. 106-65.
- Study whether or not DIBRS¹¹ can or should eventually replace the FAP central registry.
- Expand the required reporting elements of the FAP database to temporarily capture Section 594 data should DIBRS be delayed in becoming fully operational.
- Evaluate data collection methodology to determine needed improvements.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the first recommendation and has already begun amending DoD publication 7730.47-M. DoD agrees with the last recommendation. DoD does not agree with the second and third recommendations. DIBRS and the Services' FAP Central Registries, from which the DoD Central Registry contains limited data elements, serve fundamentally different purposes: law enforcement and clinical treatment, respectively. DTFDV recommendations below underscore those differences in purpose. Using the FAP database for law enforcement data collection purposes will significantly degrade the perception of the FAP as a program that provides clinical assistance to troubled families.

Issue 3G -- Evaluation

That the DoD --

- Establish guidance requiring program evaluation as an integral component of the domestic violence response.
- Establish a DoD advisory committee to oversee the program evaluation effort.
- Establish a protocol for evaluating field-based domestic violence programs that would include written reports of findings, recommended corrective actions, and follow-up consultation.
- Strategically employ the use of regional oversight and monitoring visits at both the DoD and Service levels.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the goal of strengthening the Services' program evaluations and will amend DoD Instruction 6400.1. DoD would like to work with the

¹¹ DoD Directive 7730.47, "Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS)," October 16, 1996.

DTFDV to clarify expectations and strengthen procedures for program evaluations. DoD notes that the advisory committee in the second recommendation may be unnecessary.

SECTION III, STRATEGIC PLAN

CHAPTER 4 — VICTIM SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue 4A - Mandatory Reporting

That the DoD –

- In collaboration with the military services and the DTFDV, review the impact of mandatory reporting on victim safety, victim disclosure, access to services, victim autonomy and early offender intervention.
- Develop criteria for expected outcome measures to evaluate the effectiveness of mandatory reporting of domestic violence within DoD, as it correlates to victim safety, victim disclosure, access to services, victim autonomy and early offender identification.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the recommendations and would like to coordinate with the DTFDV in developing criteria for the second recommendation.

Issue 4B - Removal of Service Member Victim from Housing Following a Domestic Violence Incident

That the DoD –

- Develop and disseminate policy at the DoD level on who should be removed following a domestic violence incident in military housing.
- Ensure the paramount and overarching goal of victim safety is achieved by the identification of the "primary aggressor" by law enforcement first responders that will necessitate specialized training in domestic violence; but will significantly enhance their ability to identify the real victim.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with the first recommendation and will amend DoD Instruction 6400.1 accordingly. DoD agrees with the requirement in the second recommendation that law enforcement first responders have specialized training in responding to situations of domestic violence, but believes this training should help enable first responders to remove the appropriate individual from the home and provide safety to the victim of the incident and children in the home. DoD disagrees with the requirement in the second recommendation that law enforcement first responders identify a "primary aggressor" and the "real victim." DoD notes that there are couples in which each person periodically has resorted to violence and abusive behavior (excluding situations of self-defense). These couples may require both additional law enforcement investigation past

the initial response and an in depth clinical assessment from the FAP or clinical service provider.

Issue 4C -- Confidential Resource for Military Victims

That the DoD --

- In collaboration between the Military Services and the DTFDV, expand availability of the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE) by:
 - Providing specialized marketing and outreach, including ensuring that hotline information and community domestic violence resources are included in the materials issued by family services, health care, FAP, law enforcement, as well as the relevant policies communicated from the commanding officers.
 - Identifying information necessary to enable the National Domestic Violence Hotline to assist military spouse/partner callers who are victims of domestic violence, to incorporate the provision of appropriate training to the hotline staff.
- Seek a partnership with the Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office and the Department of Health and Human Services, to create a pilot project that provides military spouses/partners who are victims of domestic violence with access to confidential community services that address their unique needs, and increase the overall collaboration with installation personnel.
- Explore all options for creating a system of confidential services, privileged communications and/or exemptions to mandatory reporting with the goal of creating access to a credible avenue for victims of domestic violence to receive support, information, options and resources to address the violence in their lives.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with these four recommendations.

Issue 4D -- Educating New Family Member Spouses About Their Options Regarding Services for Domestic Violence

That the DoD --

- Provide a "welcome package" of written information on the helping services available to family members on the local installation.
 - Embedded within these packages is "domestic violence" information to include, but not limited to:

- Statement from the Secretary of Defense on DoD's commitment to victim safety.
- Specific information on FAP such as how to contact it, confidentiality, military protective orders, the Transitional Compensation Program and other installation specific information as appropriate.
- Specific information on the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE), local community resources and the process for obtaining orders of protection off the installation.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with these recommendations and will begin implementation accordingly.

**SECTION III, STRATEGIC PLAN
CHAPTER V — SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Issue 5A -- Definition

It is recommended that the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence use the following working definition in accomplishing its statutory mission.¹² This definition is for the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence to provide a framework in accomplishing its statutory mission.

Domestic violence is:

- The use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force, violence, a deadly weapon, sexual assault, stalking, or the intentional destruction of property; or
- Behavior that has the intent or impact of placing a victim in fear of physical injury; or
- A pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward the following:¹³
 - A current or former spouse; or,
 - A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or,
 - A current or former intimate partner.¹⁴

DOD RESPONSE: DoD recognizes that the DTFDV's definition of domestic violence was intended for the DTFDV's internal use. DoD recommends that the definition of "intimate partner" in footnote 14 be revised as follows: "Intimate partner" does not include a person in a marriage or other relationship involving conduct that is specified in title 10 U.S. Code, section 654." DoD notes that a definition of domestic violence for DoD must be appropriate for a range of policy and training purposes, including law enforcement, health, Family Advocacy Program, and public affairs. DoD agrees to study the DTFDV definition for its suitability in DoD policy.

¹² Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Authorization Act, sections 591, 592, and 594.

¹³ Persons ineligible for military entitlements will be referred to appropriate civilian services.

¹⁴ Intimate partner does not include relationships prohibited by 10 United States Code 654.

SECTION IV — REVIEW OF DOD INCENTIVE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Task Force continue to monitor and report on the establishment of this program.
- That the OSD FAP Manager brief the Task Force on program status during calendar year 2001.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD agrees with both of these recommendations. OSD has requested the Services to notify military installations to submit applications for FY 2001 incentive program awards.

SECTION V
MILITARY DEPARTMENT EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations in this section were derived from the Services' self-analysis of their response to domestic violence. The Department of Defense takes no position with respect to such recommendations.

SECTION VI
PENDING, COMPLETED, AND RECOMMENDED RESEARCH
RECOMMENDATIONS

- DoD [should] partner with National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to further articulate the research agenda and organize scientific community-wide requests for applications and peer review process of the proposals.
- [DoD should] Facilitate and encourage publication in peer reviewed journals completed military domestic violence research.
- This research agenda should not preclude the funding of research into the causes, consequences, and interventions of domestic violence in the military through other Services' research funding mechanisms; e.g. Tri-Service Nursing or Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.
- **The following research priorities are recommended:**

Priority 1 Research leading to the reliable differentiation of different types of abusers and abusive situations should be given first priority. Intervention strategies for offenders and victims, as well as prevention planning, require a better and more accurate picture of the range of possible abusive situations (i.e., severity, chronicity, and patterns), characteristics of identifiable types of abusers, and a way to assess for both. The following kinds of studies are aimed at moving beyond the one-size-fits-all model:

- a. Development of a reliable screener for identification of serious and chronic abusers as well as identification of those who are unlikely to pose a serious and/or continuing threat.
- b. Longitudinal studies that follow the natural course of abuse over time to determine which types of individuals escalate and which improve as a function of time.
- c. Studies to determine whether currently available typologies (e.g. Holtzworth-Monroe typology) are a good fit with military populations.

Priority 2 Next in priority should be research aimed at determining what works and for whom. This cluster of related research addresses both offender and victim interventions:

- a. Development and rigorous evaluation of several varied interventions to determine the following:
 - 1) Which specific intervention program is most effective for which type of offender? (This must be based on a rigorous assessment.)
 - 2) What is the impact of treatment duration? Is 52 weeks more effective than 16 weeks or even 10 weeks with monthly follow-up?

- 3) When treatment is effective, what is the specific mechanism of change?
- 4) When recidivism occurs, is it spread evenly across the population of abusers, or is it more likely among a specific type of abuser?
- 5) What is the impact of specific domestic violence interventions over time, and do the various interventions show effectiveness after the passage of time? This question requires long-term follow-up of treated and untreated offenders.

b. Determine what works best for victims of domestic violence.

- 1) Implement surveys to find what interventions are preferred by victims and why.
- 2) Implement several programs designed to assist victims and evaluate for efficacy.
- 3) Develop and test several strategies designed to assist victims in highly dangerous situations where something above and beyond the usual set of interventions is needed.

Priority 3 Third Priority should be given to research aimed at clarifying how well the military specific approach to domestic violence is working and where it should be modified. This includes the following key areas:

- a. Determining the impact of mandatory reporting on the disclosure of abuse and victim/offender outcomes after system intervention.
- b. Determining the progression of information and key decision points for military commanders. What do commanders know about domestic violence? Do they know what actions need to be taken? What are the key choice points for commanders? What specific information leads to good versus poor decisions in domestic violence cases?
- c. Determining whether the current definition of spouse abuse as a discrete, incident based event (with sub-categories) facilitates or interferes with good case decision-making. Would a more dynamic definition lead to more reliable and accurate decisions by the Case Review Committees?

Priority 4 The fourth priority is to determine the actual prevalence versus the reported prevalence of domestic violence. Does the actual prevalence and/or the reported prevalence vary across military services and/or across installations for each service? Is any variation related to command climate and/or key system policies and procedures?

Priority 5 The fifth priority is to determine which approaches to domestic violence prevention work and for whom. (Note: Data from the research recommended in Priority 1 is also highly

relevant, if not essential, to the determination of effective prevention approaches.) Under Priority Five are the following suggested approaches:

- a. Use data from recruit surveys to do longitudinal studies of individuals who were exposed to parental violence and/or were themselves abused as children. Determine if a relationship exists between childhood exposure and later involvement in partner violence.
- b. If a demonstrable relationship does exist between childhood exposure to violence and adult involvement in partner violence, then develop and evaluate an intervention system for identifying, and treating children in military families with current identified domestic violence.
- c. Consider other recommendations from an existing military/civilian work group convened by the U.S. Air Force to address domestic violence prevention.

Priority 6 The sixth priority is to evaluate the knowledge and consistency of key players.

- a. Determine the effectiveness of the law enforcement component of a first response to domestic violence. How do law enforcement personnel identify and label domestic violence incidents? Is the response across various individuals and installations consistent? Is the training provided for law enforcement personnel on target, effective, and consistent across the Military Services and across military installations?
- b. Determine the knowledge of medical personnel concerning domestic violence and the effectiveness of their consequent actions. Survey women who have reported domestic violence to medical personnel to determine their perception of the quality and helpfulness of the military medical response.
- c. Determine the knowledge of chaplains concerning domestic violence and the effectiveness of their consequent actions. Survey women who have reported domestic violence to chaplains to determine their perception of the quality and helpfulness of the response received from the chaplains.
- d. Implement a survey to determine the knowledge of Family Advocacy Program staff concerning domestic violence. How does their knowledge and their beliefs about domestic violence impact the effectiveness of their consequent case related actions. What factors are most important in case related decision-making by Family Advocacy Program staff?

Priority 7 The seventh priority should be the following potentially fruitful areas of research:

- a. Determine the efficacy of marital type counseling approaches for screened low-level cases of domestic violence.
- b. Study men's and women's use of violence; determine gender differences and similarities in the use of violence in intimate relationships.

c. The impact of the lack of confidentiality on disclosure and victim safety.

DOD RESPONSE: DoD funds research into health and other issues that affect active duty service members. DoD agrees that such research should be guided by these recommendations and the research agenda, as appropriate. DoD agrees that domestic violence research examining issues affecting family members of active duty service members that is funded by other federal agencies should be guided by the research agenda, as appropriate.